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July 22, 1942.

Hon. Juan E. Richer,  
Consul for Mexico,  
70 Pine Street  
New York, N.Y.

My dear Consul:

Pursuant to my conversation with you this morning, I am sending to you the facts involved in the procurement of passports by baseball players who are under a valid contract with clubs of the National Association of Negro Baseball Leagues.

After these contracts are made by the clubs they expend large sums of money during the spring season for conditioning their signed players in order to fit them for play in the National League Games. On many occasions after the National League season has opened, the outstanding players of the various clubs are inveigled into "jumping" or breaching their contracts for services as baseball players, upon the promise of increased pay and for the purpose of getting the highly skillful Negro ball players to play for various clubs in Mexico or in various other countries of South America. This, of course, can only be done secretly and by the ability of promoters from the foreign countries to obtain passports.

It is patent that these ball players breaching their contracts are not going to Mexico as tourists on a two-weeks' trip or are they going to Mexico for occupational pursuits by reason of a lack of occupational opportunities in this country where they are under contracts and as aforesaid. This practice has been seriously harmful to the said National Association and has worked great financial losses upon the various clubs.

Before taking this matter up with the State Department in Washington, D.C. I want to place the facts squarely before the Consul General of Mexico in order that we may procure the cooperation and concerted efforts of the Consul General and the State Department of the United States. There can be no argument as to the illegality of procuring these passports, both as to the false pretenses under which they are obtained and the extensions of stay which undoubtedly are procured by the baseball players when once they are able to go to Mexico.

A recent case has occurred in the instance of one



Montford Irvin, formerly of Orange, New Jersey, who was under a valid contract for baseball services with the Newark Eagles Baseball Club of the City of Newark, New Jersey, which said club I represent as its attorney and counsel. Irvin, after making his contract with the Newark Eagles Baseball Club, violated the same and left this country for Mexico some time between May 10th and May 15th, 1942. He is at the present time playing with one of the baseball clubs in Mexico. His present address is 17 Juan Escutia Calle, Mexico, D.F. Undoubtedly he has procured and is procuring an extension of time for his stay in Mexico.

One Raymond Dandridge of 68 West Kinney Street, Newark, New Jersey, is another outstanding baseball player and a member of the said Newark Eagles Baseball Club. He is under a valid contract for services from May 1, 1942 to September 30, 1942. He has already been approached by one Alfonso Pasquel, who is temporarily residing at the Hotel Waldorf Astoria, Room 1108, New York City, New York.

If Dandridge is able to procure a passport it will be his purpose to breach his contract with the said Newark Eagles Baseball Club and play with a team in Mexico. This, we are trying to prevent.

We are also desirous of having the stay of Montford Irvin in Mexico brought to an end and that all rights under his passport fraudulently obtained will be terminated.

Hoping that you will give this matter your immediate and serious consideration and that I might hear from you promptly in regard to the matters herein stated, I beg to remain,

Most respectfully yours,

(Sgd.) Robert S. Hartgrove

RSH/m